



RICARDO D. GARCIA  
PUBLIC DEFENDER

**LAW OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

**CLARA SHORTRIDGE FOLTZ CRIMINAL JUSTICE CENTER**  
210 WEST TEMPLE STREET, 19TH FLOOR  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

TEL (213) 974-2801 / FAX (213) 625-5031 / TDD (800) 801-5551



**ADOPTED**

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

September 10, 2019

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

39 September 10, 2019

CELIA ZAVALA  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear Supervisors:

**AUTHORIZE THE PUBLIC DEFENDER TO ENTER INTO A NON-FINANCIAL  
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE BAIL PROJECT WITH RESPECT TO THE  
REFERRAL OF CLIENTS FOR PROVISION OF BAIL  
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)**

**SUBJECT**

This is to request that your Board authorize the Public Defender to enter into a non-financial Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with The Bail Project with respect to the referral of clients for provision of bail.

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:**

1. Authorize the Public Defender to execute and enter into the attached non-financial MOU (Attachment) with The Bail Project to provide legal assistance in bail hearings.
2. Delegate authority to the Public Defender to negotiate and execute any amendments of the MOU, upon approval as to form by County Counsel.

**PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

The purpose of the recommended actions is to authorize the Public Defender to enter into a non-financial MOU with the Bail Project to offer possible bail assistance to Public Defender clients who, otherwise, face pretrial detention.

The MOU continues and expands the existing program to allow Public Defender to refer its clients to The Bail Project for possible bail assistance. The Bail Project will:

1. Receive referrals from Public Defender for possible bail assistance for its clients;
2. Conduct interviews with referred Public Defender clients to assess bail assistance eligibility;
3. Pay bail amount of selected Public Defender clients who will be notified of next court dates, and coordinate with Public Defender to connect clients to community services and resources, should the client request such services.

This program will continue at the Public Defender Compton branch office and commence at the Public Defender Van Nuys branch office.

### **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

The recommended actions are consistent with the County of Los Angeles Strategic Plan Goal I: Make Investments That Transform Lives. Specifically, it will address Strategy 1.3 to Reform Service Delivery Within Our Justice System and Board of Supervisors Bail Motion on March 8, 2017.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

The proposed MOU is non-financial and has no fiscal impact.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

On September 4, 2018, your Board approved the pilot program allowing the Public Defender to refer clients to The Bail Project for possible bail assistance. The pilot was located at the Public Defender Compton branch office. The Public Defender now seeks to expand the pilot to its Van Nuys branch office to further assess the feasibility of expanding the program to more Public Defender offices. The non-financial MOU has been reviewed and approved as to form by County Counsel.

### **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

Approval of these recommendations will allow Public Defender to partner with The Bail Project in a pilot program providing bail assistance to qualified Public Defender clients.

The results of The Bail Project assistance program will allow Public Defender to assess the effectiveness of the bail assistance model by measuring clients' court attendance rates and case outcomes and assess the feasibility of adopting this model to other Public Defender offices.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
9/10/2019  
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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ricardo D. Garcia", with a stylized flourish at the end.

RICARDO D. GARCIA  
Public Defender

RDG:ag

Enclosures



**RICARDO D. GARCIA**  
Public Defender

**Jenny Brown**  
Chief Deputy

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER**  
**CLARA SHORTRIDGE FOLTZ**  
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**EXECUTIVE OFFICE**

September 3, 2019

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County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

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*To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service*

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RICARDO D. GARCIA Public Defender

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